

Claim Amendments

Please amend the claims in accordance with the claims amendments as follows:

1. (currently amended) A catalytic muffler comprising:

a housing having a first chamber, and a second chamber fluidly communicating through a catalyst bearing reactor bed interspersed therebetween; said reactor bed having a first face facing directly into said first chamber, a second face facing directly into said second chamber and a plurality of discrete flow passages extending longitudinally therethrough between said first and second faces to provide direct fluid communication between said first and second chambers;

a first baffle assembly ~~in said first chamber~~ extending longitudinally through said first chamber between said first face of said catalyst bed and said housing to longitudinally partition said first chamber;

an inlet passage extending through said housing into said first chamber;

an outlet passage extending through said housing into one of said first chamber and said second chamber;

a second baffle assembly ~~in said second chamber~~ extending longitudinally through said second chamber between said second face of said catalyst bed and said housing to longitudinally partition said second chamber;

said first and second baffle assemblies acting in conjunction with said housing and said reactor bed to define a flow passage through said housing from said inlet passage to said outlet passage requiring at least three sequential passes through said reactor bed directly between said first and second chambers with each subsequent of said passes being through a discrete, laterally adjacent zone of said reactor bed and opposite in direction to an immediately preceding of said passes.

2. (original) A catalytic converter as claimed in Claim 1 wherein:

one of said inlet and said outlet passages extends through an end of said housing;

the other of said inlet and said outlet passages extends through a side of said housing.

3. (original) A catalytic converter as claimed in Claim 1 wherein:

said inlet and said outlet passages extend through a side of said housing.

4. (currently amended) A catalytic converter as claimed in Claim 1 wherein:

said inlet and outlet passages extend[[s]] through an end of said housing.

5. (original) A catalytic converter as claimed in Claims 2, 3 or 4 wherein:

said housing is cylindrical.

6. (original) A catalytic converter as claimed in Claims 2, 3 or 4 wherein:

said reactor bed includes an oxidizing catalyst in one part thereof and a reducing catalyst in another part thereof.

7. (currently amended) A catalytic converter as claimed in Claim 6 wherein:

said housing is cylindrical, said reactor bed is made up of sections with said oxidizing catalyst and said reducing catalyst ~~being on~~ bearing parts corresponding to different of said sections.

8. (previously amended) A catalytic converter as claimed in Claim 4 wherein:

said inlet passage extends into said first chamber;

said outlet passage extends into said second chamber.

9. (previously amended) A catalytic muffler as claimed in Claim 8 wherein:

said reactor bed includes an oxidizing catalyst as one part thereof and a reducing catalyst in another part thereof.

10. (previously amended) A catalytic muffler as claimed in Claim 9 wherein:

said reducing catalyst is upstream of said oxidizing catalyst.

11. (original) A catalytic muffler as claimed in Claim 10 wherein:

said housing is cylindrical.

12. (previously amended) A catalytic muffler as claimed in Claim 6 wherein:

said reducing catalyst is upstream of said oxidizing catalyst.

13. (currently amended) A catalytic muffler as claimed in Claim 12 wherein:

said housing is cylindrical, said reactor bed is made up of sections with said oxidizing catalyst and said reducing catalyst ~~being on~~ bearing parts corresponding to different of said sections.

14. (original) A catalytic muffler as claimed in Claim 1 or 2 wherein:

said housing is cylindrical and defined by cup shaped first and second parts joined at respective outer edges; and,

said first and second baffle members act as spacers to locate said reactor bed within said housing.

15. (original) A catalytic muffler as claimed in Claim 1 or 2 wherein:

said housing is cylindrical and made up of cup shaped first and second parts, joined at respective outer edges to respective ends of a sleeve; and,

said first and second baffle assemblies act as spacers to located said reactor bed within said housing.